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ONTARIO PROVINCIAL POLICE

Provincial Operations Intelligence Bureau

SITUATION REPORT

DATE: 2022-01-28

FILE NAME: Project HENDON

Report#: 026-2022

Event: Freedom Convoy/BearHug 2.0

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**** VEHICLE COUNT (Source: OPP Provincial Liaison Team)****

The noted convoys are not travelling as cohesive units. Obtaining reliable counts for vehicles in these convoys is challenging due to factors including multiple convoys; road conditions and closures delaying or diverting portions of different convoys; convoys splitting up; staggered departure times; and vehicles joining and leaving the convoys at different points as it is moving.

For this reason, the below figures are estimates and subject to frequent change.

****TOTAL (2022-01-28 1200 HRS): 1352 vehicles**

DATE	CONVOY	SECTION	CMV	PMV	TOTAL
2022-01-28	West Convoy A	Sault Ste. Marie-Arnprior	341	20	361
2022-01-28	South Convoy F	Owen Sound	100		100
2022-01-28	Huntsville	not noted	150		150
2022-01-28	MM611 Kingston	Kingston-Ottawa	127	427	554
2022-01-28	Quebec	not noted	110		110
2022-01-28	Owen Sound	Owen Sound-Ottawa	not noted		UK
2022-01-28	Innisfil	Innisfil-Ottawa	not noted		UK
2022-01-28	Hamilton	not noted	not noted		UK
2022-01-28	West Convoy A	departing from Cochrane	47	20	67
2022-01-28	Little Current	not noted	10	UK	10
TOTAL					1352

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The information in this report is current to 2022-01-28 at 1230 hours.

POLICE INFORMATION & OBSERVATIONS

Items in this section are presented in order of seriousness of the potential threat:

1. The Sûreté du Québec has advised that members of the East Convoy are taking security seriously, blocking all of the entrances to the parking lot at one rest stop to prevent anyone not in the convoy from approaching. **(RELIABLE)**
2. Police observation has identified what may be a large air compressor being transported on a flat-bed trailer in the convoy. The item is similar in appearance to the below image. It occupies the entire flat bed trailer. **(RELIABLE)**



Image source: Open Source¹

¹ <https://www.prattandsons.com/product/sales-and-rentals/portable-air-compressors/hp1600wcu-t4f-air-compressor/>
(accessed 2022-01-28)

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OPEN SOURCE INFORMATION (Media and Social Media)

Information from open sources, including the media and social media, is critical for developing all-source intelligence that provides context, and which identifies indicators of ideologies, beliefs, and attitudes that motivate subjects of interest and influence their behaviours. This component of all-source intelligence is vital for informing law enforcement in developing strategies and tactics to prevent, mitigate or respond to potential threats.

Items in this section are presented in order of seriousness of the potential threat:

3. Open source research has identified a YouTube channel that appears to be live-streaming police communications (Belleville PS; Ottawa PS; and the OPP) regarding the location and movement of the various convoys. Further open source research located a social media message indicating that the author had been listening specifically to the OPP radio traffic. **(UNKNOWN)**
4. Open source research has identified social media messaging suggesting that some individuals attending the Ottawa protest may attend one or more hospitals in Ottawa. One social media user responded with “!!THE FUCKERS ARE PLANNING TO BLOCK HOSPITALS!!” It is unknown if any individual attending the protest actually has the intent to do so. **(UNKNOWN)**
5. In a video posted on the CANADA UNITY Facebook page, James BAUDER, who is driving in the convoy, indicates that OPERATION BEARHUG was intended to “bring the law to Ottawa” and that they will not leave the city until the law has been restored and they get their lawful freedom back. While BAUDER states that they have made plans so that members of the public and public transportation in Ottawa will not be disrupted, he also hints that there are plans that they cannot make public for strategic and security reasons. BAUDER further states that he anticipates that they will win in Ottawa, after which they will proceed to the United States to support the truck drivers there. He further references a Memorandum of Understanding that has been prepared, that, once signed, will result in Prime Minister TRUDEAU, Erin O'TOOLE and the “NDP leader” stepping down. **(UNKNOWN)**
6. Open source research identified a 15-page Memorandum of Understanding to be submitted by CANADA UNITY for signature to the Governor General and the Speaker of the Senate, George FUREY. Signatories for CANADA UNITY are listed as James BAUDER; [REDACTED] **(RELIABLE)**

Analyst Comment: *We believe that this is the document to which BAUDER refers in the video described in paragraph 5.*

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7. Open source research has captured a still image of a flatbed tractor-trailer carrying a pick-up truck and a smaller piece of equipment, possibly a construction light tower, posted on a Facebook page called CONVOY TO OTTAWA 2022 RESTART on 2022-01-27. Open source research also captured an image of another flat-bed truck carrying another pick-up truck and portable toilets, as well as what may be an excavator being transported by a truck in the convoy. This is the third piece of heavy equipment observed in the convoy. **(RELIABLE)**



8. Media reporting has cited a convoy organizer stating that farmers were bringing bulldozers to remove snow and make room for the transport trucks to park. The location was not stated, but it is inferred that she was referring to Ottawa. **(UNKNOWN)**
9. Open source research has identified an image of a large boat on a flat-bed trailer with “#JT’s SHIP IS SUNK” spray painted on the side, as well as the Nazi insignia “SS” and the word “CASTREAU”. We infer that these comments are directed toward the Prime Minister. A small loader is also on the trailer. **(RELIABLE)**

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Analyst Comment: It is possible that this image may have been taken as the Freedom Convoy was passing through Milton. It is unknown whether the vessel is intended for use in any capacity in Ottawa or whether it is simply to make a statement.

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10. Open source research has also identified a image of what appears to be a large all-terrain vehicle being hauled in the convoy.



***Analyst Comment:** The vehicle in question may be a SHERP amphibian utility task vehicle.*

11. Open source research has identified social media messaging encouraging convoy participants to remain peaceful and not carry anything that might be construed as a weapon. The author also suggests that paid actors may attend the protest and cause problems for which convoy participants will be blamed, just as members of the PROUD BOYS were after the January 2021 insurrection at the US Capitol Building. The author further notes that police will not stop a riot if one begins, and participants should restrain individuals who are misbehaving as long as neither party gets hurt. **(UNRELIABLE)**
12. Open source research identified a CBC interview of two individuals in the convoy: they advised that they wanted to take their country back, and one was wearing a yellow star patch on his jacket reminiscent of the one that Jews were forced to wear under Germany's Nazi regime. Protestors against COVID-19-related public health measures in Europe and the United States have been have been reported and observed wearing similar patches. **(RELIABLE)**

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13. Some responses to a Tweet on the OPP's Twitter page regarding the closure of part of Highway #17 due to poor weather on 2022-01-27 express cynicism, anger, and claim that the weather was fine and that this was merely an excuse to delay or halt the convoy. Similar narratives were identified on other social media sites. **(UNRELIABLE)**
14. Regarding the same road closure noted in paragraph 13, another social media user posted a video with a caption indicating that the government had closed the road and that the convoy might be stopped. One individual suggested blocking all of the routes, including rail lines, as that would result in the roads being re-opened. **(UNRELIABLE)**
15. In addition to using the ZELLO mobile application to communicate, open source research has yielded information to suggest that some convoy participants may also be using SIGNAL. **(UNKNOWN)**
16. Open source research has identified a social media comment indicating that the convoy drivers need a lot of food and that supporters were moving it to the road for them. **(BELIEVED RELIABLE)**
17. Media reporting indicates that protest organizers have arranged for scheduled events every day until they receive a response from the government to their demands. The reporting indicates that a stage will be set up in a park on 2022-01-31 and politicians, truck drivers, and Indigenous elders will be speaking. The reporting also indicates that the convoy is scheduled to remain in Ottawa for a week, but will stay longer if COVID-19 vaccine mandates are not lifted. **(UNKNOWN)**
18. The GoFundMe account supporting the Freedom Convoy has raised \$7.1 million (2022-01-28 1155 hours). **(RELIABLE)**
19. The "ADOPT A TRUCKER" fundraiser has raised \$46,447 (2022-01-28 1156 hours). **(RELIABLE)**

ASSESSMENT

The available information indicates that the protestors plan to remain in Ottawa at least until 2022-02-04. We continue to identify indicators to support at least some protestors remaining beyond the weekend of 2022-01-29/30. These indicators include collecting donations of cash, food, and water from supporters along the route.

The reason for the convoys transporting the noted pieces of heavy equipment is unknown and represents an intelligence gap.

We continue to assess that fringe elements amongst the convoy participants and supporters likely represent the greatest potential threat to public order and safety posed by the Freedom Convoy/Operation BearHug 2.0

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protest. The apparent hesitance to discuss plans for Ottawa and the behaviour of the participants of the East Convoy indicate a degree of security awareness and security culture amongst some groups or individuals who plan to attend the protest in Ottawa, as does the potential use of SIGNAL.

BAUDER appears to be focused primarily on Operation BearHug 2.0 (compelling the Canadian government, and subsequently the American government, to rescind all COVID-19-related mandates). It is possible that they may attempt to attend the Prime Minister's residence in Ottawa or Harrington Lake; Rideau Hall; or the residences of the Speaker of the Senate in order to obtain their signatures on the noted Memorandum of Understanding.

While BAUDER claims that the convoy participants and supporters are prioritizing safety and do not intend to inconvenience the public, some social media users appear to be encouraging illegal acts, including blocking hospitals. The angry reaction to this suggestion on social media suggests that there is a potential for conflict amongst protest attendees.

Misinformation and disinformation continues to feed distrust of the government and the police, which may result in defiance towards law enforcement in Ottawa or a disregard for the law and public order. It is likely that some protest participants will believe the "false flag" narrative of paid actors at the protest, and this may provoke conflict amongst protest attendees, particularly if any attempts are made by protestors to restrain or apprehend other protestors. Any such incident has the potential to escalate and could require a police response.

Erroneous information online regarding the participation of American truck drivers and broad support from Indigenous peoples, as well as the number of supporters attending along the convoy route, has likely raised the expectations of protest attendees.

Project HENDON has not identified any concrete, specific, or credible threat with regard to the Freedom Convoy protest or OPERATION BEARHUG. However, the possibility that a lone actor or group of individuals could enact a physical threat with little or no warning cannot be excluded.

TACTICAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Unconfirmed information of unknown reliability suggests that **some convoy participants or supporters may bring weapons** with them to Ottawa;
- Police communications on convoy movements appear to be monitored and re-broadcast on YouTube;
- Potential live-streaming of protest by attendees;
- Some attendees may be using the SIGNAL app (encrypted) for communication;
- Potential use of drones for counter-surveillance and tactical planning;
- Spontaneous convoys may organize with no warning.

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INTELLIGENCE GAPS (COLLECTION REQUIREMENTS)

Priority intelligence gaps are in red font.

- **Nature of activities in Ottawa by advance convoy participants (2022-01-28 - 2022-01-29);**
- **Events possibly scheduled at Parliament Hill on 2022-01-30;**
- **Extent of extremist participation in convoy protest and intent of extremist actors;**
- **Potential for some participants to bring weapons or be armed;**
- **Content of trailers in convoy – possible items to support extended stay in Ottawa;**
- Nature and location of evening event in Kingston (2022-01-27);
- Plans for any further action should demands not be met;
- Plans for departing Ottawa.

EVENT SCHEDULE

2022-01-28

- **Owen Sound: Grey Bruce United We Stand – MTO pull-off (0900-1100 hours).**
 - Route as follows:
 - South on Hwy 6/10 South (0930 hours);
 - Depart Chatsworth (0940 hours);
 - Depart Flesherton (1010 hours);
 - Depart Shelburne (1040 hours);
 - Depart Orangeville (1100 hours);
 - East on Hwy 9 to Hwy 400 South;
 - East Hwy 401 on route to Ottawa.
- **Innisfil: Freedom Convoy 2022 – 400 OnRoute (before 1000 hours).** Vehicles will drive to 1 Bass Pro Mills Rd. to cheer on the convoy.
- **Hamilton: Hamilton Sends Off Convoy for Freedom – 349 Kenora Ave., Hamilton (0900 hours).**
- **Espanola: Protest – Hwy 17 and Hwy 6 (0900 hours).**
- **Bracebridge: Convoy to North Bay – Home Depot (1030 hours);**

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- **Huntsville: Convoy to North Bay** – Walmart (1130 hours);
- **North Bay: Rally** – Pinewood Park Dr. (1230-1730 hours);
- **Pembroke: Convoy 2022** – Irving Big Stop, 1751 Paul Martin Dr. (1630 hours);
- **Trenton: Freedom Convoy Trenton HWY 401** – HWY 401 Glenn Miller exit (Ramada Inn) (1400 hours).
- **Kingston: Freedom Convoy** – start time 1930 hours at the following locations:
 - Hwy 38 between Hwy 401 and Centennial Dr.;
 - Sydenham Rd. overpass;
 - Montreal St overpass.

2022-01-29

- **Ottawa: Freedom Convoy** – Confederation Park/Parliament Hill (1200 hours)
- **Niagara Falls (New York): Freedom Convoy** – Rainbow Blvd. N. (1300 hours)
- **Niagara Falls (Ontario): Freedom Convoy Gathering** – Rainbow Bridge (1315 hours)
- **North Glengarry: Vanleek Hill Meeting Point** – 21260 Service Rd. (0800 hours) meeting point TBA.
- **Temiskaming Shores: Convoy 2022 to Ottawa Support Gathering** – Location TBA (1200 hours)
- **Hamilton: Freedom Rally** – Hamilton City Hall (1400 hours)
- **Toronto: 2022 March for Freedom (Freedom Protest)** – Union Station (1200 hours)

Authors:	Trish Ingalls, Intelligence Analyst	Catherine Palermo, Intelligence Analyst
Approved:	Brent Elbers, D/S/Sergeant	B. ELBERS
Date:	28 January 2022	

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